

WASHINGTON POST

DATE 29 Sep 71 PAGE 5

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House Approves Assassin Probe's Immunity Power

The House authorized its Assassinations Committee yesterday to demand immunity for witnesses who cooperate in investigating the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Chairman Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) told the House his committee may need immunity for more than 100 witnesses in the Kennedy investigation alone.

Stokes said the only way the committee can obtain testimony from organized crime figures and soldiers of fortune is to provide court immunity against their testimony being used to prosecute them.

The House approved 200 to 115 the committee's request for authority to ask the courts for immunity powers.

Stokes' reference to soldiers of fortune appeared to confirm a report that an appearance by soldier-of-fortune Loren Hall was postponed this month so that he could be given immunity.

Hall has said in at least four published interviews—in which details varied—that before the Kennedy assassination Nov. 22, 1963, Dallas businessmen offered him \$50,000 to kill the President.

The committee chairman refused to make any comment about Hall.

He also told reporters he cannot reveal how more than 100 people, including gangsters and soldiers of fortune, might still need immunity for their stories about the 14-year-old assassination.

"We just cannot answer that question at this time," Stokes said. "We know what we're doing."

Rep. Neal Smith (D-Iowa) opposed the request on grounds that it would give a majority of seven committee members power to grant immunity.

20529

Oswald's Widow Tells of 'Very High Level of Anger' at Him for the Legacy of Shame

By CAREY WINSTLEY

In a little while Marina Oswald Porter would read a statement to a room full of reporters, relating her conviction that Lee Harvey Oswald, her husband at the time, had assassinated President John F. Kennedy and had done so alone.

But now, sitting in the office of the publisher of a new book that she has come to New York to promote, she was worried. As she talked about Oswald in English that was only faintly accented by her native Russian, the diminutive Dallas housewife fidgeted and chain-smoked menthol cigarettes. She was nervous about the news conference and worried that the reporters could be "disappointed" that she had nothing new to say.

She will receive approximately 60 percent of the royalties earned by "Marina and Lee" for her cooperation with its author, Priscilla Johnson McMillan. But she expressed fears of

losing the equilibrium that time, a new life and a measure of anonymity have helped her to achieve.

"I feel like an animal caged in a zoo," she said, "with people pointing their fingers at me."

"Young and handsome"

At 35 years of age, she is still pretty. Her eyes are dark and intensely blue. She is poised but guarded, as if she holds her emotions in tight rein. Beneath the surface, there appears to be sadness.

Her greatest regret, she said, is that when she first came to this country, she was not stronger, more independent, better able to judge her former husband's precarious psyche.

"I was so young and immature," she said, "I didn't realize him or me or our marriage that deeply and seek real help for him. I was too blind."

The residue of guilt she feels about

what she refers to simply as "revenge" comes from her belief that she might have prevented the 1963 assassination either by seeking psychiatric help for her husband or, after he told her that he had fired a rifle at Gen. Edwin A. Walker, by reporting that incident to the police.

"Lee was the only person I had in this country," she said. "He had gone to so much trouble to bring me here. I feared of losing him if I betrayed him. As the years have passed and as she has learned more about him and his motives by reading his diary, her feelings for her former husband have hardened.

It's a very strong urge to use hate. Perhaps a very high level of anger is there," she said. "How dare he ruin my sons and that of my children forever? And I do not believe in killing other people."

During an hour-and-a-half interview before the news conference, she re-

laxed only occasionally, mainly when she talked of her family—her daughter, June, who is 16 years old, and her son, Rachel, who is almost 14, and her son, Mark, 11. The girls never knew their father. He was shot and killed by Jack Ruby, Mark's father is Lemmon Porter, a sewing-machine salesman and repair-

man who likes to go fishing. Mrs. Oswald was married to him in 1963, and she lives quietly with him today on 17 acres of Texas prairie outside Dallas. She insists that newspaper reports to the contrary, they are not well to do.

Her children are the centerpiece of her new life. "I hope their dreams are strong enough for them to meet the goals they set for themselves," she said. "The main thing I want for them is to be good and compassionate people. I didn't do anything great in my life, but maybe my children will be able to do something for their home-

land."

She had read the book, the first half of which is almost pure biography of her, only a few days before. She had always said she wouldn't read it, but "my curiosity got the better of me," it depressed her.

"When your mistakes are printed in black and white," she said, "it forces you to think harder about yourself and try to correct them."

She says she has tried to put Oswald behind her, that she even thinks in English now. She does not read Russian books or magazines, has very little contact with the Russian community in Dallas and makes no effort to get in touch with friends and relatives there for fear of putting them in jeopardy.

Sometimes, when the children are grown, she might like to take some courses in agriculture (she's an avid gardener) or interior decorating, but "I live one way at a time now; I don't make any plans."

18669

To Forget Is Not To Forgive

By Lee Lescaze

NEW YORK—Marina Oswald Porter, hesitant and almost expressionless, held a press conference yesterday to boost sales of a book about her life and her first husband, Lee Harvey Oswald. The book, "Marina and Lee," has a photograph of the couple inside a heart-shaped frame on the cover. It is, the jacket copy says, "A fascinating and richly detailed portrait of a man who was driven to kill and a woman who was determined to survive."

"My regret through the years has... been immense," Porter told the assembled reporters as photographers took picture after picture of the short, slim woman who is thinner now than she was when her husband assassinated President Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. "I can never forget or forgive what he (Oswald) did, to me and to my children, to the President and his family, to the whole world," she said.

She stood behind a lectern bristling with microphones and answered patiently as reporters probed for a bit of news or new psychosexual theory

about the assassination that troubles Americans' memories as perhaps no other event has done.

"It was a sad life," she said when asked to characterize her more than two years of marriage to Oswald. "A quite difficult marriage... and problems from a financial point of view that didn't make things easier."

"How do you feel about Oswald?" reporters asked again and again.

"You forget with the years about the bad and troublesome times," she replied. But, when she read "Marina and Lee" for the first time two weeks ago it made her angry at him.

A reporter remarked that she seemed to know more about Oswald from reading the book than from her life with him.

Porter, who spent nearly seven months with the book's author, Priscilla Johnson McMillan in 1964, explained again that she had forgotten many of the bad times until she read the book.

Reporters pressed her to say she feels hatred for Oswald. She agreed

that some of what she feels could be called hate.

A questioner reminded her that at one time during her marriage to Oswald she had felt a sexual aversion to him. Perhaps, he suggested, Oswald had killed Kennedy as a result of sexual frustration.

Porter rejected the suggestion.

Another reporter wondered whether Oswald had been jealous of Kennedy because his wife admired the President. He proposed that it had been a triangle in Oswald's mind with the two men competing for her love. She did not take that theory seriously.

Marina Porter rarely changed expression as she turned her head and stared at each questioner. Employees of Harper & Row, the publisher of "Marina and Lee", groaned at some of the questions.

When McMillan was responding in a circuitous manner to a question about Oswald's mental health, Oswald's widow broke in: "Nobody in his right mind would kill someone."

"Of course," Porter responded when asked whether she ever thought of Kennedy's widow. "I always feel sorry for a woman who loses her husband." She explained that it is difficult for a woman alone to earn money and raise children.

But, she was asked, didn't she feel a special grief for Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis?

"For her and for me, too," Marina Porter replied levelly. "I'm sorry, but sometimes I do feel sorry for myself."

Her two children ask questions about their father, she told the press conference, and only then does she speak of him. "They ask, 'Did he ever play with me? Did he love me?' and things like that," she said.

A reporter said that the children must face a lot of questions from their schoolmates.

"What questions can they ask a child about a father he doesn't remember?" she replied.

In a prepared statement, Porter said that anyone who reads "Marina

and Lee" "will see that the events of Nov. 22, 1963, had to happen. It was the final act of a slow, painful tragedy that was our life together."

She was unable to clarify at the press conference why the assassination "had to happen." Her husband had a violent temper and was a loner who acted alone in killing Kennedy, she said. But the 36-year-old woman, who will share in the book's royalties, made it clear that many of the details of her life with Oswald no longer stand out in her memory. A Harper & Row spokesman refused to say what percentage of the royalties she will get.

After 30 minutes of questioning, with the reporters' zeal to find fresh news or just to hear Marina Porter continue talking apparently undiminished, Harper & Row editor-in-chief Buz Wyeth cut the press conference off. A couple of the reporters and photographers asked Porter for her autograph before Wyeth could escort her from the room.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Thursday, Oct. 13, 1977

B 5

18668

Assassination Panel Is Given Right to Bypass House

By WENDELL RAWLS Jr.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16—The House of Representatives has given its Select Committee on Assassinations a strong demonstration of support by granting the committee the right to bypass the full House and apply directly to the courts to compel witnesses to testify about their knowledge of events surrounding the deaths of President Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

That decision, "made by the House last month in an overwhelmingly favorable vote, is considered the most significant recent development in the yearlong history of the embattled committee.

"After struggling for the better part of its first year to obtain Congressional support and public credibility, the committee hired G. Robert Blakey as staff director and chief counsel last July 1 and then has enlarged its staff from 10 to 215.

The number of field investigators rose from five to 28 in the same period, and the staff has opened a branch office in St. Louis, according to sources close to the committee.

Researchers are accumulating "immense stacks" of documents and are computerizing the information they contain, the sources said, and investigators are interviewing "hundreds" of witnesses.

At the same time, the committee is hearing testimony in executive session from Government agents and from people allegedly linked to the events in Dallas, where President Kennedy was shot in 1963, and in Memphis, where Dr. King was killed in 1968.

However, the sources said that House passage of the request by the committee on what is called "use immunity" was especially important because it carried as much symbolic as practical significance. The committee and its subcommittees are now allowed to bypass the normal procedure of going to the floor of the House each time they want to go to court for an order of use immunity for a witness.

Use immunity protects a witness by

prohibiting the prosecutorial authorities from using the compelled testimony in any respect against him. Therefore, it insures that the testimony cannot lead to criminal penalties against the witness.

However, under a grant of use immunity, which the Senate Watergate committee gave to John W. Dean and Jeb Stuart McGruder, the witness must testify or face charges of civil contempt of Congress or possibly charges of criminal contempt of court.

If a witness refuses to testify, the committee could sentence him to jail in the basement of the Capitol for the life of the committee (until Dec. 31, 1978), or take him to court in the District of Columbia, which could sentence him to three years in the District jail, if the witness testified falsely, he could face possible perjury charges.

The symbolic significance, the sources

said, lies in the favorable vote rolled up on the House floor and in the fact that only the House committee investigating the Korean payoff scandal now shares such authority to go to the courts without full House approval in advance.

The 290-to-112 vote favoring the committee's request contrasts with the much narrower 223-to-195 vote last March that extended the life of the committee through the end of the 95th Congress.

"The vote demonstrates that the House members now feel that the committee is conducting its affairs in a proper and dignified manner," a committee source said. "And that the House with its vote has told everybody that it is prepared to support the work of the committee."

In addition, the source said, the action signals to such Government agencies as the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency and to

certain segments of organized crime that the committee's future is not tenuous and that it cannot be ignored or outwitted.

Seeking Degree of Involvement

The proper application of use immunity gives this country the best opportunity ever to discover the degree of involvement, if any, by the F.B.I., the C.I.A., organized crime or other entities with Dr. King and President Kennedy, the source said.

The members of the committee seem to be adhering to a gag rule requested by Mr. Blakey, the chief counsel and staff director, and imposed by its chairman, Representative Louis Stokes, Democrat of Ohio. But Mr. Stokes said in a speech on the House floor that the committee was receiving "excellent cooperation from all the agencies from whom we have sought any type of testimony of evidence of any type."

NEWS SERVICE

Date. 1 NOV
Item No. 4
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7PM-STURGIS ARRESTED; 250

NEW YORK (AP) - CONVICTED WATERGATE BURGLAR FRANK STURGIS HAS BEEN ARRESTED; ALLEGEDLY FOR THREATENING A WITNESS WHO GAVE A HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE DETAILS OF STURGIS' RELATIONSHIP WITH LEE HARVEY OSWALD; POLICE REPORT.

OSWALD WAS THE ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

POLICE SAID STURGIS, 52, OF MIAMI, WAS SEIZED AT 11:30 P.M. FRIDAY IN THE MANHATTAN APARTMENT OF MARITA LORENZ, FORMER UNDERCOVER AGENT FOR THE FBI AND CIA AND ONETIME LOVER OF CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO.

ON MISS LORENZ' COMPLAINT, POLICE CHARGED STURGIS WITH AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT AND COERCION. THEY SAID HE APPLIED COERCION "INSTILLING FEAR ON THE COMPLAINANT TO REFRAIN FROM TESTIFYING BEFORE A LEGALLY CONSTITUTED AUTHORITY.

MISS LORENZ WAS INTERVIEWED SATURDAY BY GRETEN FONZI AND R. GONZALES, INVESTIGATORS FROM THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS, ABOUT A TRIP SHE SAYS SHE TOOK WITH OSWALD, STURGIS AND FOUR CUBANS IN A CAR FROM MIAMI TO DALLAS A FEW DAYS BEFORE KENNEDY'S DEATH.

SHE TOLD FONZI AND GONZALES THAT HER COMPANIONS WERE MEMBERS OF OPERATION 40, A 30-MEMBER GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION ORIGINALLY FORMED BY THE CIA IN 1960 TO PREPARE FOR THE INVASION OF CUBA.

STURGIS, WHO HAS ADMITTED HE TOOK PART IN OPERATION 40, HAS DENIED HE MADE THE TRIP WITH MISS LORENZ.

POLICE SAID STURGIS SOMEHOW HEARD ABOUT MISS LORENZ' SESSION WITH THE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES AND FLEW TO NEW YORK. POLICE SAID SOME OF THE THREATS WERE TELEPHONED.

STURGIS WAS TO BE ARRAIGNED TODAY IN MANHATTAN CRIMINAL COURT.

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NEWS SERVICE

Date. 1 Nov
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DISTRIBUTION II

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7PM-STURGIS ARRESTED; 1ST LD; AG89:60

7EDITORS: THIS LEAD PROVIDES ATTRIBUTION FOR STATEMENT THAT OSWALD WAS THE ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

NEW YORK (AP) - CONVICTED WATERGATE BURGLAR FRANK STURGIS HAS BEEN ARRESTED FOR ALLEGEDLY THREATENING A WITNESS WHO GAVE A HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE DETAILS OF STURGIS' RELATIONSHIP WITH LEE HARVEY OSWALD; POLICE REPORT:

OSWALD WAS THE ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY; ACCORDING TO THE WARREN COMMISSION; WHICH INVESTIGATED THE ASSASSINATION.

7POLICE SAID: 3RD GRAF.

1126AES 11-01

UP-045

(FRANK STURGIS)

NEW YORK (UPI) - CONVICTED WATERGATE BURGLAR FRANK STURGIS WAS ARRESTED LAST NIGHT ON CHARGES OF THREATENING A WOMAN IN ORDER TO KEEP HER FROM TESTIFYING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS; POLICE REPORTED TODAY.

POLICE SAID STURGIS WAS ARRESTED IN A MANHATTAN APARTMENT AT 11:30 P.M. BY A DETECTIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S INTELLIGENCE DIVISION. POLICE SAID THE APARTMENT WAS RENTED TO STURGIS.

POLICE SAID STURGIS HAD TELEPHONED THREATS TO MARITA LORENZ. MISS LORENZ IS A FORMER CIA AND FBI INFORMANT WHO TESTIFIED BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE THAT SHE ACCOMPANIED LEE HARVEY OSWALD, STURGIS AND OTHERS TO DALLAS ON NOV. 19, 1963, THREE DAYS BEFORE PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED.

STURGIS, 52, WAS TO BE ARRAIGNED LATER TODAY ON CHARGES OF AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT AND COERCION.

STURGIS, OF MIAMI, FLA., WAS CHARGED WITH THREATENING MISS LORENZ TO "REFRAIN FROM TESTIFYING BEFORE LEGALLY CONSTITUTED AUTHORITIES," POLICE SAID.

UPI 11-01 11:31 AEC

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DETROIT NEWS
11 November 1977

Jack Ruby's secrets still unfolding Dallas: An unfinished drama

By SETH KANTON
News Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — No event has spun a thicker web of mystery than the murder of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas 14 years ago this month. And of the major players in that drama, none was more secretive than Jack Ruby.

Ruby, the Dallas night club operator who killed Kennedy's assassin, was questioned by the Warren Commission, which conducted the official U.S. inquiry into the shootings of Kennedy and assassin Lee Harvey Oswald. But the commission did not dig into Ruby's curious personal and business relationships — ties with criminals, Cuba and Central Intelligence double-agents — even when it had information about them.

One of Ruby's hidden relationships was with convicted Detroit bank robber Thomas E. Davis III. At the time Davis was a CIA operative with anti-Castro Cuban connections and involved in international gun-running.

Another curious link was Ruby's acquaintance with Alfred E. McLane, a prominent Dallas attorney and, according to U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission records, general counsel for a New York-based firm headed by Santo Sorge, identified by federal investigators as an international kingpin of the Mafia.

THEN THERE WAS Santo Trafficante, a Mafia leader who has been described as having been a double agent — a person engaged in spying for two rival countries — for the CIA and for Castro.

Another was Lewis J. McWillie, identified in FBI files as a veteran in U.S.-organized crime circles, with close ties to Miami-based mobster boss



RUBY

Meyer Lansky.

None of Ruby's unexplained connections was more puzzling than his relationship with Tom Davis, a Texan with a background both as criminal and CIA operative.

Davis robbed a branch of the National Bank of Detroit at gunpoint on June 12, 1958, when he was a 21-year-old Army veteran.

In a note showed at a teller in the bank's Linwood-Clairmont branch, Davis threatened to shoot the woman behind the cage unless she "put money on the counter." He got what the note asked for — \$1,000.

After getting the money, Davis, dressed in Army fatigues, changed his mind. He threw the money onto the floor and fled the bank. He ran to an alley, reappeared in civilian clothes and hurried to his car, which contained an arsenal of guns.

BUT A POLICEMAN, summoned by the bank alarm, got the drop on Davis just as he reached the vehicle.

That same month, Davis' wife graduated from the University of Michigan. Davis also had been a student at the U. of M., majoring in business administration, but dropped out owing \$200 in tuition fees.

On July 10, 1958, Federal Judge Thomas P. Thornton in Detroit decided to go easy on Davis for two reasons. No. 1, the judge received an outpouring of letters and telegrams from civic leaders and others in Jacksboro, Tex., Davis' home area, attesting to the good, solid stock Davis was from.

No. 2, Davis promised the judge he would return with his wife to Texas and work on a ranch. Davis was tall, handsome and charming enough to "talk the maggots off a dead fish," according to his third wife.

Judge Thornton put the would-be bank robber on five years' probation as a federal prisoner.

But Davis never went near his family's ranch country. Instead he went to Beaumont, about 300 miles away, took up deep-sea diving and helped operate a boat on the Neches River and the Gulf of Mexico, which led him into the gun-running business.

DAVIS THEN GOT involved with CIA-backed anti-Castro units which trained in Florida and Central America. Davis himself described his participation in commando-like raids on Cuba to contacts back in Texas.

In January, 1963, he obtained a U.S. passport — No. D236764 — which he was not supposed to have, since he still was a federal prisoner on probation.

Davis used the passport to smuggle weapons into Algeria and was jailed there for running guns to the secret army terrorist movement that was attempting to assassinate French Premier Charles de Gaulle.

A CIA agent who operated extensively in Africa and Europe and was known as QJWIN got Davis sprung from an Algiers jail and returned to the United States.

Davis first met Ruby when he walked into Ruby's downtown Dallas club with a plan to film a stag movie, using Ruby's strippers as participants. The movie never materialized, but Ruby and the tall, blond, handsome soldier of fortune struck up a clandestine friendship.

After Ruby was jailed for the murder of Oswald, he confided in his first attorney, Tom Howard, that the one person he didn't want the Warren Commission to find

out about was Davis. Ruby told Howard that he planned to go into the gun-running business on a full-time basis with Davis.

BUT RUBY, sentenced to death as a murderer, died of cancer at the start of 1967 while still a prisoner. Davis, whose fortunes seemed to ebb and flow every few months, died while carrying out a burglary in north Texas in 1973. He was electrocuted as he mistakenly cut his way through a 7,000-watt cable he thought was disconnected.

Warren Commission investigators discovered, while the two men still were alive, that Ruby had become involved with Davis in the shipment of arms to Cuba. But the investigators couldn't learn Davis' first name and couldn't locate him. According to a March 19, 1964, memorandum of the investigators:

"Ruby has acknowledged independently that... he contacted a man in Beaumont, Tex., whose name he recalled was Davis. The FBI has been unable to identify anyone engaged in the sale of arms to Cuba who might be identical with the person named Davis."

continued

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When Ruby was questioned on June 7, 1964, by two commission members, then-Rep. Gerald R. Ford of Michigan and Chief Justice Earl Warren, he was not asked about any connection with Davis or with gun-running.

The FBI pursued the subject, but interviewed the wrong Davis and got nowhere. Meanwhile, the CIA kept the identity of the real Davis a secret.

ANOTHER REPORT withheld from the Warren Commission by the CIA involved a visit paid by Ruby in the fall of 1959 to U.S. Mafia leader Santo Trafficante, who at the time was housed comfortably in a Havana jail. Trafficante had been jailed by Fidel Castro, who had come to power at the start of that year and was purging U.S. gangsters from lucrative gambling operations in Havana.

(Earlier this year the enigmatic Trafficante refused to answer questions on Capitol Hill put to him by the House Select Committee on Assassinations, when he was asked about first-hand knowledge of plots to assassinate both Castro and Kennedy, and what he knew about Jack Ruby.)

Ruby's visit to Cuba that fall was preceded by a mysterious meeting in Dallas in the summer of 1959 with Dallas attorney Alfred E. McLane and an owner of the Tropicana, the largest casino in Havana.

During that same summer, Ruby sent a coded message to Havana to Lewis J. McWillie, manager of the Tropicana. It was hand-carried to Cuba by Elaine Mynier, an intimate of McWillie's from Dallas.

It was shortly after delivery of this message that Ruby was paid by McWillie to make two trips to Havana, including the one to visit the jailed Trafficante, according to the report withheld from the Warren Commission by the CIA.

Whether the House Select Committee on Assassinations will have any better luck unraveling the mysteries behind the deaths of President Kennedy and Oswald — and the withheld reports on Ruby's involvements — remains to be seen. But there is no doubt that death of Ruby himself has robbed the investigators of their best source.

News staff writer Seth Kantor, then a White House correspondent for Scripps-Howard Newspapers, accompanied President John F. Kennedy to Texas in November, 1963. Kantor was in the motorcade when the President was shot, and then encountered Jack Ruby minutes later inside Parkland Hospital. In earlier days as a newspaper reporter in Dallas, Kantor had known Ruby as an occasional story source. The two talked briefly at Parkland. Two days later, Kantor stood a few feet away in the Dallas police sta-

tion basement as Ruby gunned down Kennedy's accused assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald. Then Ruby denied having been at the hospital. As a result of the conflict, Kantor became the only Washington correspondent summoned to testify before the Warren Commission, which ultimately chose not to doubt Ruby's denial. Troubled by that denial, Kantor began extensive research three years ago into "The Secret World of Jack Ruby," the name of his forthcoming book, to be published by Zebra Books of New York.